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Woollamia
NSW 2540

Dear Sir

Re West Culburra Concept Proposal SSD 3846

I oppose this proposal for the following reasons:

The large proposed subdivision of 244 residential lots is located near the catchment of Lake Wollumboola (LW) and I support the decision to remove the LW catchment from the proposal.

I contend the proposal should also be relocated away from the Crookhaven river catchment. In its current location this proposal will cause degradation and potential destruction of Aboriginal middens which are an important Aboriginal cultural heritage site.

The proposed housing development will destroy 49 hectares of coastal forest. This represents an unacceptable impact on important wildlife habitat and refuge following the 2019/20 Currowan fire which destroyed the majority of the Shoalhaven's and south coastal habitat.

The impact of this development will be greater than just the clear felling of 49 hectares. There will be greater effects including significant impacts on Lake Wollumboola's wildlife habitat. This includes the habitat of internationally endangered shorebirds such as the Eastern Curlew, the Black tailed Godwit, the Bar Tailed Godwit, the Red Necked Stint (protected under international conventions CAMBA and JAMBA), and locally endangered Little Tern, Sooty Oystercatcher and Hooded Plover. Some of these species nest on the sand flats adjacent to LW and are extremely vulnerable to impacts from humans including people walking with dogs and trampling and destruction of nests, eggs and chicks.

The potential loss of habitat above is combined with cumulative clearing of coastal forest elsewhere in the south coast region due to sustained development and population pressures exacerbated by the recent COVID emigration from the cities. This is part of an unmitigated and sustained assault on wildlife habitat in the coastal areas of New South Wales and South eastern Australia generally.

We are seeing an increase in the frequency and intensity of fires in this area due to climate change. The proposed development significantly increases the Culburra population who will need to evacuate the town due to fire emergency using the one road into and out of the township. (I have been a volunteer firefighter with the Huskisson RFS brigade for the past twenty years and write from experience).

These impacts represent the 'death by a thousand cuts' to the natural resources that humans and all species of wildlife depend upon.

It is preferable to focus regional development at Nowra and surrounds rather than create an unacceptable increase in environmental pressures at such a sensitive and inappropriate site.

Yours sincerely

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